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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 16 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 7 October 2015, regarding the thirty-third round of the Geneva international discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-18118 (E) 271015

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Annex to the identical letters dated 16 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the thirty-third round of the Geneva international discussions

Tbilisi, 7 October 2015

The thirty-third round of the Geneva international discussions was held on 7 October 2015. The participants in the discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in the two working groups, the first focusing on security and stability in the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and the other on issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the Sokhumi and Tskhinvali occupation regimes, took part in the discussions.

The discussions were conducted in a constructive manner. Despite a heated debate, the participants exhausted all agenda items in both working groups.

Within the first working group, the participants from Georgia reviewed the security situation in the occupied regions. They expressed concern over the relocation of the so-called "border signs" in the villages of Tseronisi, Tsitelubani, Orchosani and Tamarasheni in July and August 2015. It was underlined that the installation of barbed-wire fences and illegal detentions and kidnappings of civilians increasingly deteriorated the security and humanitarian situation for the local population.

The Georgian side particularly stressed the deployment of Russian railway troops in the Abkhazia region of Georgia under the pretext of restoring the railway line. Concern was expressed over the increasing number of illegal military drills in the vicinity of the Georgian State border and inside the occupied territories. It was noted that the signing of the additional documents in the military, economic and social spheres further to the so-called "integration treaties" clearly illustrated the process of creeping annexation from the Russian side. In this context, the Georgian participants once again underlined the necessity of a legally binding non-use-of-force commitment by Russia, as well as international security arrangements in the occupied territories.

Within the second working group, the need to ensure human rights in the occupied territories, the freedom of movement, the right to receive education in the native language, the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees, the protection of cultural heritage, issues related to the environment and the water and gas supply to the population were discussed.

Extensive discussion took place concerning the restrictions on education in the Georgian language in the occupied territories, with particular emphasis on the situation in the Gali district. Attention was focused on the transition to teaching in Russian instead of the Georgian language in the 2015/16 academic year. The Georgian participants and the co-moderators emphasized the necessity of ensuring the right to receive education in the native language.

Within the frame of the negotiations, the issues of cultural heritage and the environment, especially the protection of forests, from the perspective of joint measures were also discussed.

Despite the fact that some of the participants were not constructive on the issue of the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin in the Russian-occupied territories, discussions on the issue were held, during which the Georgian side stressed the necessity of the involvement of the international community in this direction. In addition, an information session was held on the topic "Cultural heritage protection: principles and practice". The expert from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization introduced to the participants possibilities to protect cultural heritage during military operations, as well as in conflict-affected regions and the occupied territories.

The Georgian participants once again reaffirmed their readiness to continue constructive participation in the discussions and to take effective measures with a view to conducting humanitarian projects aimed at resolving the pressing needs of the local population.

The thirty-fourth round of the Geneva international discussions will be held on 8 and 9 December 2015.

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19 October 2015

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Letter dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 October 2015 regarding the proposal to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **JA** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-18087 (E) 201015

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Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 October 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued the following statement on Saturday, 17 October 2015:

As already known to the world, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, reclarified its fair and above board stand to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty.

This was prompted by the urgent need to defuse the danger of a war caused by the potential threat to the Korean Peninsula and create a climate for durable peace.

The situation on the peninsula last August when a trifling, accidental case created a touch-and-go situation all of a sudden finally proved that the present Armistice Agreement could no longer avert a conflict and defuse the danger of a war.

An agreement was reached between the north and the south with much effort thanks to the DPRK's peace-loving stand and persevering patience, but there is no guarantee that the agreement will be preserved and implemented as desired.

It is because the south Korean authorities, a party to the agreement, do not have any prerogative of command over any armed force in south Korea and are not in a position to reject any joint military drill imposed by the U.S.

It is as clear as day that if a conflict occurs again in the area along the Military Demarcation Line due to the escalating tension, it will spill over into an uncontrollable all-out war.

The course of the negotiations held so far for the settlement of the issue on the Korean Peninsula has proven that no issue in which the countries concerned, including the U.S., are interested can be settled unless a peace treaty is concluded before anything else.

The DPRK once discussed the issue of denuclearization at the six-party talks by taking into consideration the assertion of the countries concerned that the issue of denuclearization should be discussed before anything else, and has simultaneously discussed both the nuclear issue and the issue of ensuring peace in the past. But all these discussions proved futile and, even when a partial agreement was reached, it was not implemented.

This was mainly because the U.S. persistently pursued its hostile policy towards the DPRK, and its military provocations, such as large-scale joint military exercises and the introduction of nuclear striking means into south Korea, were its vivid manifestation, and periodically chilled the atmosphere of all negotiations and ratcheted up the tension on the peninsula.

In order to put a definite end to the evil cycle of escalating confrontation and tension it is necessary to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty before anything else. This is the conclusion drawn by the DPRK.

There are two ways for ensuring peace on the peninsula.

The first one is the Cold War way in which the DPRK has to bolster its capability for self-defence with its nuclear force as a pivot in every way so as to cope with the increased nuclear threat and war provocations of the U.S.

It is entirely thanks to the DPRK's nuclear deterrence that all-out war has been averted on the peninsula and is in a state of ceasefire.

The other way is for the U.S. to roll back its hostile policy towards the DPRK and respond to the call for concluding the peace treaty with the latter so as to ensure genuine and lasting peace based on confidence.

The issue of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty is the matter on which the U.S. should make a bold decision first, and there should be a principled agreement between the DPRK and the U.S. to begin with.

The United Nations, too, should positively support the conclusion of the peace treaty and thus fulfil its responsibility for putting an end to the abnormal situation where its Member State is technically at war with the "United Nations Command" on the Korean Peninsula.

If the confidence-building between the DPRK and the U.S. helps remove the source of imminent war, it will be possible to finally put an end to the nuclear arms race and consolidate peace.

The U.S. should drop the idea of groundlessly shunning the issue of concluding the peace treaty and prudently take a right option.

If the U.S. shuns the conclusion of the peace treaty or puts a conditionality on it even at this time, when the situation on the peninsula has reached a crucial turning point, this attitude will clearly show the world that it has no intention of rolling back its hostile policy towards the DPRK.

If the U.S. insists on its hostile policy, it will see only the DPRK's limitless bolstering of nuclear deterrence and the growth of its revolutionary armed forces capable of fighting any form of war to be ignited by the former.

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Security Council

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21 October 2015

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Identical letters dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the attached information regarding the mortar shells and rockets launched by terrorist groups on the city of Damascus and its suburbs during the period from 4 to 17 October 2015, which left many civilians dead or injured.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-18309 (E) 231015 231015

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Annex to the identical letters dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Sunday, 4 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Area of the October Liberation War Panorama	3	1010	Material damage
2	Abbasiyin bus station, next to the Ubadah mosque	1	1010	Material damage

Resulted in material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Tuesday, 6 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Abbasiyin area	5	1450	Material damage
2	Area of Qabun Police Department	3	2000	Material damage

Resulted in material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Thursday, 8 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Adawi motorway	1	0800	Material damage
2	Adawi motorway	4	0940	2 injuries
3	Abbasiyin bus station	1	0945	Material damage
4	Electricity Company, Abbasiyin	1	0945	Material damage
5	Jaramana camp	2	1000	Material damage
6	Airport road	1	1000	Material damage
7	Abbasiyin bus station	2	1545	2 injuries

Resulted in 4 injuries and material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Saturday, 10 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Thermal power plant, near Harran al-Awamid	1	1635	3 deaths and material damage
2	Bab Tuma	5	1650	Material damage

Resulted in 3 deaths and material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Sunday, 11 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Bab Tuma Square	1	1200	1 death, 2 injuries and material damage
2	Bab Tuma	1	1200	Material damage
3	Bab Tuma checkpoint	1	1200	Material damage
4	Ush al-Wurur	1	1215	Material damage

Resulted in 1 death, 2 injuries and material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Tuesday, 13 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Russian Embassy	2	1020	Material damage
2	Bab Tuma	2	1215	Material damage
3	Bab Tuma	2	1255	Material damage
4	Zablatani	2	1315	Material damage
5	Kabbas Bridge	6	1445	Material damage
6	Kabbas	1	1445	3 injuries and material damage
7	Umayyah Paint Company	5	1450	2 injuries and material damage

Resulted in 5 injuries and material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Wednesday, 14 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Tijarah	1	0815	1 injured civilian
2	Mazzah 86	3	0900	Material damage
3	Mazzah 86	1	0900	Material damage
4	Baghdad Street	1	0900	Material damage
5	Abu Rummanah	1	0935	Material damage
6	Adawi	1	1000	Material damage
7	Abbasiyin	1	1045	2 injuries
8	Carlton roundabout	1	1045	Material damage
9	Abbasiyin	3	1245	Material damage
10	Kabbas	12	1245	Material damage
11	Hamra'	1	1800	Material damage
12	Baramikah	1	1805	Material damage
13	Baghdad Street	1	1810	Material damage
14	Bab Tuma	1	1825	Material damage
15	Abbasiyin	1	1830	Material damage
16	Adawi	1	1850	Material damage

Resulted in 3 injuries and material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Thursday, 15 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	The Panorama	1	1200	Material damage
2	The Panorama	1	1235	Material damage
3	Radio and television building	1	1830	Material damage

Resulted in material damage.

Missiles that landed in the city of Damascus on Saturday, 17 October 2015

No.	*Location*	*Number of missiles*	*Time*	*Damage*
1	Abbasiyin bus station	2	1250	1 employee of the engineering department was killed and 2 others injured; 2 civilians were also injured
2	Qabun — Syronics checkpoint	1	1950	Material damage

Resulted in 1 death, 4 injuries and material damage.